

Workshops - Andante Summer School 2012

1. Keep your eyes open when you shop for clothes!

We express some part of our personality by what we wear. When we go shopping for something new we consider - carefully or subconsciously - whether it fits our style or conforms to the new trend. More and more shops offer bio-fair clothes which are not only suitable for everyday wear but also for the office, the theatre, the restaurant, and of course sports. Almost half of all textiles consist of cotton. We will take you on the journey cotton takes - from the plantation to the factory and finally the clothes rack. While travelling this way we will throw light on the impact on the environment as well as the inhuman working conditions involved, which mostly affect women. In addition we will show how you, when you choose your new outfit, can be aware of how your action and choice will affect the environment now and the environment of your grandchildren in the future: 'dress fairly and look good'.

Facilitator: Sabine Slawik (German)

2. Women get out! - Action to ban the use of nuclear power

Nothing works in our world without electricity. We have known for a long time that electricity from both nuclear and fossil material is leading us into a dead end (cul-de-sac). Renewable energy is the only rational base for a life-style which will preserve creation and a life-giving world for future generations. For more than a year now the German Catholic Women's League (KDFB) has challenged women to change over to an eco-energy provider. We want to engage with the process and background of this project. How far has the change-over progressed? What is still to be done? What can we do as individuals?

Facilitator: Brunhilde Frickel-Faulstich (German)

3. 'World Play'

This 'World Play' will make us aware of the social injustice in this world and how things are connected and relate to each other. Clara Slawik will play it with us, after her presentation of the organisation 'Plant-for-the-Planet'. "Children plant for their future. The voice of one single child can hardly be heard. However, with a big choir a large public can be reached. Children around the world have come together in a big network and engaged themselves for assuring a safe future. This started only 5 years ago and now it is a worldwide organisation which gives them a voice and hope for the future. We share our knowledge and plant trees against climate change and as a symbol for climate justice.

Facilitator: Clara Madeleine Slawik (English)

4. Greening our money

How do we 'green our money'? Even if we are not shareholders, we are all stakeholders in some form of investments, be it the bank that holds our money, the pension funds in which we may be invested, or in the companies whose products we buy. This workshop will consider the issue of 'ethical investment' or, as it is more commonly called, 'socially responsible investment'. We will consider different approaches to this, and reflect individually what might be practical for each of us to do'

Facilitator: Helen Costigane (English)

5. 'Feel the Elements in yourself' – Meditation and singing on Creation: Fire and Earth

Fire, Earth, Air, Water... What do the Elements mean to me? In everyday life, in my spiritual life...? How do these qualities of Nature, these forces given by God work in me, how do I use them, as a woman? We meditate with Taizé songs and with silence to look for answers, to take a deep trip into ourselves. We share what we have experienced.

Facilitator: Fanni Jónás (English)

6. 'We will become a Fair Trade Town'

To begin with, the concept of Fair Trade will be explained and the world-wide campaign of Fair Trade Towns introduced. For this purpose two short films will be shown (each 5 – 8 minutes). The city of Augsburg will be used as an example to show how these serve to improve the publicity campaign for Fair Trade. During the interactive phase of the workshop we will look at the participants' home towns and cities and concretely and together consider what pre-conditions exist there that would make it possible for them to join the Fair Trade Towns movement and what would have to be done to achieve this goal.

Facilitator: Ute Michallik (German)

7. I thirst for change - do you?

In this workshop we will look at images of water and choose one that means something to each of us. We will then discuss our different visions of water and its impact on us and the world. I will let you choose a 'water story' from Zambia or Zimbabwe and a quote from scripture or Catholic Social Teaching to be discussed in small groups and shared with all afterwards. A 'water and sanitation quiz' as well as a brainstorming on possible action in each of our countries to look at our own usage of water or ways that we could lobby our governments to provide clean water and safe sanitation to those who lack it, will be part of the programme of the workshop.

Facilitator: Maria Elena Arana (English)

8. Are we eating-up our planet?

We have to change our present way of life significantly if we are to protect and sustain God's good creation. What we eat can play an important part in safeguarding our global climate. The food industry contributes 20% to the greenhouse gasses that put such a stress on the climate. I would like to lay bare the essential facts about climate change, using tips and examples and to put together recipes that treat our climate with fairness.

Facilitator: Maria Anneken (German)

9. Good light is winning

How do I manage artificial lighting in daily life? What are the most efficient and environment-friendly sources of light? The new lighting: LED – no more bulbs? How can we beautify our environment with artificial light without harming it? Does artificial lighting affect our health? How can a town make its streets and squares attractive and safe for its citizens at night? Good lighting is not only attractive but also benefits nature. This workshop offers useful information about light and lighting and aims to deepen our knowledge through discussion. Modern light sources and their effectiveness will also be on display in the meeting room.

Facilitator: Sandor Isépy (German)

10. Feel the Elements in yourself – Meditation and singing on Creation: Water and Air

Fire, Earth, Air, Water... What do the Elements mean to me? In everyday life, in my spiritual life...? How do these qualities of Nature, these forces given by God work in me, how do I use them, as a woman? We meditate with Taizé songs and with silence to look for answers, to take a deep trip into ourselves. We share what we have experienced.

Facilitator: Fanni Jónás (English)

11. Writing Blessings

We will look at the tradition of blessings in many cultures and religions. We will read examples of blessing in Judaism and in the Christian tradition. Those who chose this workshop will be asked to bring their favourite blessings and present them to the group. There will be a selection of blessings available for participants to read and chose. Members of the group will then write and illustrate their own blessings relating to the theme of the summer school. These will be in participants own languages and also in English. Participants will share their work and produce a display for all women at the summer school to read later.

Facilitator: Mary McHugh (English)

12. 'Blessed are you who live simply'

In this workshop I would like to use this (adapted) quote from The Sermon on the Mount to sum up the problems of climate change in a nut shell. With the help of selected examples I will present the facts clearly and emphatically, so that they can show how every single one of us can begin to act in daily life. It will also become apparent how the consequences of climate change particularly affect women and children in developing countries, and we will gain insights and directives on how we should act in the face of this situation.

Facilitator: Beatrix Anheier (German)

13. Eco-congregations

The world faces enormous environmental and climate change challenges. It is easy to give up or leave the response to everyone else. As churches we are called to be good custodians of God's Creation, and followers of Jesus Christ. Therefore we must continuously work to improve our own practices for a sustainable development. In this workshop we will explore how local congregations can work to be eco-friendly and part of the struggle for a just and sustainable world. We will look at practical tools and choices congregations can make, and discuss how they could be applied in our setting.

Facilitator: Kristine Hofseth Hovland (English)